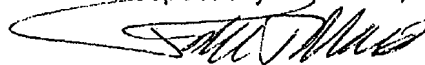


Arguments/Remarks

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to amend the claims in accordance with the New Amendment Format announced in the pre-OG notice dated January 31, 2003. The amendments herein were implemented in order to place the claims in ideal condition for U.S. prosecution and to correct certain errors in the specification and claims. No new matter was added.

Entry of the subject amendments prior to the initial examination of the present application on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Ralph J. Mancini
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 34,054

Akzo Nobel Inc.
Intellectual Property Department
120 White Plains Road, Suite 300
Tarrytown, NY 10591
Tel No.: (914) 333-7454